

# HARMONY FIRE DISTRICT

P.O. Box 360 – 194 Putnam Pike  
Harmony, R.I. 02829

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was held at the Harmony Fire Station on **Thursday, March 21, 2013.**

Present: Moderator – Raymond Fogarty, Jr.; Chief Stuart Pearson;  
Tax Collector/Clerk – Kimberly Barber;  
Board Members – Louise Michaels, George Kain & James Richards  
Association Representative – Linda Ferragamo, President;  
Attorney – Fred Mason, Jr.  
Absent: Treasurer – Sandra Owens – excused;  
Board Member – Milton Huston

**I. – Meeting Called to Order: 7:01 pm** by Moderator Fogarty.

**II. - Approval of the minutes from the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

Moderator Fogarty asked the board if there were any discrepancies to note on the minutes from the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. If there are no corrections, he would like to call for a motion to accept them.

Louise made a motion to accept the minutes. Jim seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously.

**III. – Approval of Bills:**

A check register of bills to be paid was provided to all board members in their folder. Moderator Fogarty asked if there were any comments or questions on these expenses. If not, he would like to call for a motion to accept them as presented.

Jim made a motion to approve the bills. Louise seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously.

**IV. - Treasurer's Report:**

No report available

**V. - Tax Collector's Report:**

The taxes receivable balance as of today's date is \$77,054.59.

Taxes collected in the month of February totaled \$13,765.99. After paying out the tax sale bill and returned checks that amount is reduced to \$303.37.

Third party billing fees collected in the month of February were \$4,981.89.

Kim stated that she has received a letter from a resident she had spoken to the board about in the past. In the letter he asks: what our agreement is with him, if we have a contract with him, why does he need to pay our bill, etc. This individual has lived in the same house for many years and

had always paid the bill in the past, but recently has been questioning it. George added that his relatives have actually been members of the department in the past. Kim was looking for the board's direction on how to proceed. Louise asked if this individual was harassing her. Kim stated she had received the letter via USPS. Ray asked what Attorney Mason advised from a legal stand point. Fred stated that he did remember the last time this individual had come into Kim's office, he had spoken to him on the phone. He would be happy to respond on the district's behalf. Kim supplied him with a copy of the letter she had received.

Kim also informed the board that the Bridget Williams and Attorney Glenn Carlson have both submitted quotes for conducting Harmony's next tax sale. Carlson has kept his fees the same and Kim reported that she had enjoyed working with his office and had no issues with them. Bridget has cut her prices in hopes to regain our business. George asked if Kim knew whose services the other fire districts and the town were going to use. She said she had spoken to Patty and the Chepachet Fire District board had decided to stay with Carlson. Patty also told her that West Glocester's Tax Collector Angela Taylor and Glocester's Tax Collector Jane Steere were also staying with Carlson next year.

A motion was made by George to retain the services of Attorney Glenn Carlson for conducting the district tax sale in September. Jim seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Jim made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's report. Louise seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **VI. - Chief's Report:**

Thank You cards were received from Bob Pierce for his Retirement Party and from the Aldrich family after Milton's passing.

A Truck Committee meeting was held last Wednesday night and an on-site visit was made to Foxboro, MA this past Saturday. Further information about this will be provided by Jim during the Truck Committee report later.

A Fire Prevention presentation was done by Privates John Detri and Jeff Muto at the Harmony Child Care & Preschool.

Chief Goodnough is resting at home after having surgery yesterday. He is doing well. As you all know, Chief Goodnough is retiring this year and his department is planning a surprise retirement party at the Village Haven in North Smithfield. All we know so far is that it will be on June 15<sup>th</sup> and they will be selling tickets. As soon as the tickets are available we will notify the board.

Tri-State meetings were held here in February and March by member George Kain. Their annual meet is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds.

Additionally, this weekend will be the bravo flight of the RIAFC Foundation Honor Flight program. Linda asked the Chief if he was going again. He said he was, with a WWII Veteran from Warwick that is 91 years young. There are 43 veterans participating this time, but none from Glocester.

Also late this afternoon the Chief found out that Harmony has its newest EMT Cardiac. Private Bianca Mullen has passed the test on her first try! The board sent their congratulations to her for this achievement.

The Chief also mentioned that the District Policies and Procedures Handbook is enclosed in everyone's folder for their review. He stated that Kim has done a tremendous job finishing putting it together. Ray said that everyone should review it before our next meeting, talk to Milt, Chief or Kim with any questions they may have and be ready to vote on it at our next meeting.

Louise made a motion to accept the Chief's report. Jim seconded it.  
The motion carried unanimously.

#### **VII. – Harmony Fire Department & Improvement Association Report:**

Bob Pierce's retirement party was held March 9<sup>th</sup> at Chester's Restaurant. He was completely surprised and everyone had a great time. Approximately 50 people attended.

Monday night we had a Northern RI League meeting here and served a corned beef dinner. Linda wanted to thank Privates Paul Perreault, John Detri and Jeff Muto who did most of the preparation that day. The Chief said about 22 people were served.

The annual banquet is coming up on April 13<sup>th</sup> and Linda had raffle tickets available if anyone wanted to buy some. We get to keep the proceeds for any sold before the event. Any tickets purchased the night of the event the proceeds will have to get split 3 ways with the other fire districts.

Linda said she had also talked with Mike Grenga about the exercise room and he told her that the rowing machine had been ordered. She wasn't sure of the exact cost.

Additionally the vending machine on the apparatus floor has been fixed.

Kim said that she had an item that she needed to ask the board at this point. In regards to Bob Pierce's retirement party, she had been part of the committee that had planned the event, along with Linda and Private Kim Perreault. What the committee wanted to ask the board was if the district would be willing to pay for ½ of this event, as they had for other retirements and such in the past. Kim said after the tickets sales the cost was about \$300 each. Ray said he had no problem with that, but in the future they should follow due process. Louise agreed, she would like these items brought to the board before the fact, not after. Kim apologized saying she had intended to present this at last month's meeting and had completely forgotten.

George made a motion for the district to split the expense with the Association for Bob Pierce's recent retirement party. Louise seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Jim made a motion to accept the Association's report. Louise seconded it.  
The motion carried unanimously.

#### **VIII. - Committee Reports:**

- a. Policies & Procedures Manual – Milton, Chair  
Addressed in the Chief's report.

- b. Broadband Work Team – Milton & Stephen Kut, Co-Chairs  
Ray stated that he saw Stuart Freiman and he would like to set up a meeting.

- c. Property Review Work Team – George & Louise, Co-Chairs  
George stated that the work team is waiting for better weather to proceed.

- d. Apparatus Review Work Team – Jim Richards, Chair  
**Work Team: Jim, George, Chief, Deputy Chief Segee, Lt. John Falco & Pvt. George Nichols**

Jim said that the work team visited Foxboro and went to the Minute Man manufacturer with their representative Paul Grondalski. The work team has narrowed it down now to the type of truck body they want and need to decide on the chassis. The next process of the team is laying out everything they want to put on the truck, getting a physical size and weight dimensions. We will be very close to a recommendation at our next board meeting. Ray said that the next meeting would be great, but it definitely must be received by the May meeting for budget purposes. Jim said that financially, with the approximately \$200,000 we have budgeted, we will be fine. The formal bid process will be followed. Further discussion followed regarding the manufacturing of trucks and the Foxboro trip.

#### IX. - Old Business:

- a. Update on RIDOT proposed Roadwork in Harmony  
Ray asked Kim to send a letter to the RIDOT, copying our elected officials, requesting an update on our outstanding issues. He would also like to request that at a minimum Route 44 be resurfaced through our district until they can finalize their project plans. This stretch of Route 44 has not been done in at least 15 years.
- b. District/Town-wide Coverage  
The Chief stated that a new meeting has not yet been scheduled.

#### X. - New Business:

George addressed a topic from a recent league meeting he had attended. There are pending changes to NFPA requirements that will affect our budget in the future. Should the guidelines be changed and we have to go out and buy new air packs, hose, etc. it would be very costly. The Chief replied that we are already in compliance with some of these requirements. The RIAFC is following this closely and keeping everyone posted. Should the changes go through in part or whole, there should be some funding available to assist with the upgrades.

The Chief also gave any update on the status of our outstanding grants. Kim and him have been checking their status closely and have still not received any word. We looked at a new grant the other day, but in order to get \$1,000 we would have had to spend \$2,000. So it wasn't worth it. There just isn't much available out there at all. George commented on the large grants that Warwick has been receiving consistently. The Chief explained that these are AFG Safer grants and although they pay for the training and salaries of new personnel for 3 years, after that Warwick owns them and their expenses will increase accordingly. George said he understood that aspect, but he just wished the elected officials could help "spread the wealth" with some northern RI communities instead of giving it all to Warwick. The Chief explained that he agreed, but when looking at the big picture the city of Warwick has x number for population, x number for runs and x for apparatus. These numbers in comparison to the numbers for the Harmony Fire District are why they justify giving them the grants.

**XI.** - Public Input: No audience.

**XII.** – Executive Session: None called

**XIII.** – Adjournment:

Louise made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. The March meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was adjourned at **7:27 pm**.

The next meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board  
is scheduled for **Thursday, 7:00 pm, April 18, 2013** at the Harmony Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly S. Barber".

Kimberly S. Barber  
Tax Collector/Secretary